

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/821,096

Applicant(s)

KUROSE, TSUTOMU

Examiner

Michael Burleson

Art Unit

2626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to ____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 5-16.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.

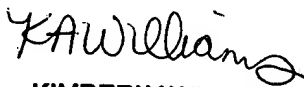
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date ____
- ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 1-24-2006
- ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- ☐ Other ____


KIMBERLY WILLIAMS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a personal interview with Luan Do on 1/24/2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 5, replace "a third step of correcting the result of the second step by changing a non-half-tone pixel which is continuous to the half-tone pixel determined at the second step or a half-tone pixel previously corrected at the third step and has a density equal to or higher than a threshold density, to a half-tone pixel." with -- a third step of correcting the result of the second step by changing a non-half-tone pixel to the half-tone pixel determined at the second step or a half-tone pixel previously corrected at a previously corrected third step and has a density equal to or higher than a threshold density, to a half-tone pixel. --

Claim 6, replace "counting a number of half-tone pixels determined at the second step and half-tone pixels previously corrected at the third step within said reference region " with -- counting a number of half-tone pixels determined at the second step and

halftone pixels previously corrected at a previously corrected third step within said reference region –

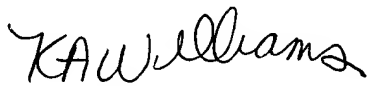
Claim 7, replace “redetermining means which corrects the result obtained from said halftone pixel determining means by changing a non-halftone pixel which is continuous to the halftone pixel...” with -- redetermining means which corrects the result obtained from said halftone pixel determining means by changing a non-halftone pixel to the halftone pixel... --

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 5-16 are allowed.
2. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Claims 5-8 of the current application teaches similar subject matter as Fujiwara US 6775031. However, claims 5- 8 are allowed for the reasons pointed out by Applicant's remarks page 2 and Examiner's Amendment.
3. It follows that dependent claims 9-16 are inherently allowable for depending on an allowable base claim.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Michael Burleson whose telephone number is (571) 272-7460 and fax number is (571) 273-7460. The examiner can normally be reached Monday thru Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 4:30p.m. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kimberly Williams can be reached at (571) 272-7471


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Mlb
January 30, 2006